

Abstract of the Disclosure

**MASTERBATCH OF FUNCTIONALIZED CARBON BLACK  
AND ELASTOMER(S) AND ARTICLES WITH COMPONENT(S)  
THEREOF, INCLUDING TIRES**

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This invention relates to preparation of a rubber composition by pre-mixing at least one functionalized carbon black with an organic solvent solution or aqueous emulsion of at least one host elastomer. Functionalized carbon blacks for the purposes of this invention preferably contain a functional moiety on their surface to aid in promoting covalent bonds between the functionalized carbon black and said host polymer. The invention also contemplates the use of such rubber composition, or blend of such rubber composition with at least one additional elastomer and/or rubber compounding ingredient, as a component of an article of manufacture. Such article of manufacture may be, for example, a tire. Such article may also be an industrial product such as, for example, a hose or belt such as a conveyor belt or power transmission belt.

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